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PRESENTATION
OF THE
ROYAL AWARDS.

(*At the Anniversary Meeting, May 25, 1868.*)

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THE Founder's Gold Medal is awarded to Dr. AUGUSTUS PETERMANN, for his important services as a Writer and Cartographer in advancing our Science, and for his well-known publication the 'Geographische Mittheilungen,' which for twelve years has greatly aided the progress of Geography. The Patron's Gold Medal to M. GERHARD ROHLFS, for his extensive travels in the interior of Northern Africa, and especially for the great journey in which he traversed the continent from Tripoli to Lagos in the Gulf of Guinea.

In presenting the Founder's Medal to Dr. Petermann, the PRESIDENT addressed him in the following words:—

“DR. PETERMANN,—

“The terms of the award of a gold medal, as approved by the Council, express in brief outline your deserts as a geographer. I need scarcely say that in this decision I heartily concur. The spirit and ability with which you have so successfully conducted for the last twelve years the publication of the 'Mittheilungen' have called forth our entire approbation, and have aided the diffusion of a taste for scientific geography throughout all civilised countries. For, whilst popularising the science by the continuous issue of clear explanatory maps and highly interesting memoirs, you have striven to give it a wider scope, by connecting it with various collateral branches of knowledge, thus rendering it a grand and comprehensive study.

“The zeal you have displayed in promoting the researches of travellers in distant lands, and the hearty manner in which you have appealed to the public for aid to enable them to carry out their plans, are well known to every reader of the 'Mittheilungen.' In proof of this commendable feature in your career, I may especially advert to your fostering care of Gerhard Rohlfs, your brother Medallist of this day, and your advocacy of the claims of Carl Mauch, on whose adventurous travels in Southern Africa I

am about to dwell in my Address. The accuracy with which you so rapidly brought out the results of the recent British explorations in Abyssinia have been highly appreciated by us.

“I must also specially advert to the steady enthusiasm with which you have laboured in the cause of North Polar exploration, until at length you have succeeded in exciting the maritime enterprise of your countrymen in this direction, and have, at your own risk and with your small means, actually raised a sum sufficient to send a Norwegian yacht to the North-east coast of Greenland. Your long-continued studies of Arctic and Antarctic Geography,—including highly instructive maps, representing the comparative amount of exploration towards either Pole, and the physical conditions which determine the currents and temperature of high latitudes, as bearing upon the routes to be followed in attempting to reach the North Pole,—I may truly say, give you another strong claim to our acknowledgment.

“For these substantial reasons, I welcome you once more back to England, and have the sincerest pleasure in presenting you with the Founder's Medal.”

Again addressing Dr. Petermann, the recipient of the Patron's Medal on behalf of M. Gerhard Rohlfs, the PRESIDENT thus spoke:—

“In awarding the Patron's Gold Medal to your intrepid countryman M. Gerhard Rohlfs, of Bremen, the Council and myself have been moved by the self-sacrifice and disinterestedness with which this young traveller applied himself to his task, as well as by the extent and importance of the journeys he has accomplished. Commencing in 1861, Gerhard Rohlfs continued for five years exploring the northern part of the African continent. His journeys in Morocco in 1863-4 are the most important that any European has performed, and, in crossing the Atlas southward to the oases of Tuat and Tidikelt, he reached a point farther than was attained by any of the French explorers. On returning *viâ* Ghadames and Tripoli, he made a short visit to Germany, and went back to Africa with the noble purpose of penetrating to Waday, to recover the lost papers of his unfortunate predecessor in bold adventure, Dr. Vogel. Entering at Tripoli he reached Kúka, on the shores of Lake Chád; whence, prevented by the Sultan of Waday from entering his territory, he pushed southwards, and, reaching the Benuwe River at its upper course, followed it to the Niger, and travelled onward by land across the Yoriba country to Lagos in the Gulf of Guinea. All these great

undertakings were performed with means so slender as to excite admiration of the hardihood of the man who could undergo so much privation in the cause of science. In his great Morocco journey he travelled for eighteen months at a cost of 80*l*. Fortunately his patriotism and love of science carried him forward, and on his last expedition he was assisted by subscriptions raised in his native town of Bremen and in Berlin, as well as by a contribution of 100*l*. granted by our Society. Since his return the King of Prussia has acceded to his request, to send to the Sultan of Bornu, who protected the traveller whilst in the region of Lake Chád, a royal present, consisting of a new throne, a state-carriage, and a gold watch.

“At the close of our last session, Gerhard Rohlfs visited England on his return from Africa, with his faithful Moorish attendant, and delighted us by his lively description of the wild countries he had traversed, and the difficulties he had surmounted. The scientific results of his journeys have been elaborated by yourself, and published by you, together with the narrative of his travels.

“A traveller so courageous and devoted has well earned this mark of our approval; and it is with pride and pleasure that I deliver to you, who have been his best supporter, the Patron's or Victoria Medal, to be placed in his hands.”

Dr. Petermann, having received both medals, replied as follows:—

“SIR,—I receive these Medals with the deepest gratitude. There can be no higher reward to a devoted servant in Geographical Science, no better stimulus to further efforts, than this distinguished mark of approbation of the leading Geographical Society of the world.

“That I have come here to receive these Medals at your own hands, is a living proof how highly I value your approbation and kindness.

“I consider, Sir, that I have done no more than my duty, in endeavouring to add my mite to the stock of geographical knowledge. As, nevertheless, you have done me the great honour to bestow on me your award, I must confess that I owe it in great part to yourself and the Society. For, when I first came to England, 23 years ago, I experienced such kindness among my brother Geographers in this country, that I shall never forget it to the end of my life. And when afterwards, 14 years ago, I followed a call to my own country, I tried to second your noble efforts, and to labour along with you as well as I could. In these endeavours I have at all times been most kindly and liberally assisted by yourself and many British geographers and British authorities all over the world, while I have found in the enterprising geographical

establishment of Justus Perthes a suitable sphere of activity, and in my assistant and friend, Dr. Ernest Behm, a hearty co-operator in everything that tends to advance geographical knowledge. Ours is a laborious and tedious work; and, whilst you English are pre-eminently discovering and exploring in all quarters of the globe, we Germans chiefly try to make ourselves useful in the study at home, assisting to digest the information obtained.

"I accept with sincere pleasure the second Medal for my friend Gerhard Rohlfs, an honest and persevering traveller, who, kindly assisted by your Society, has done some good work.

"In his name and my own I offer you, Sir, the Council, and the Members of this great Society, our sincerest thanks. At the same time I cannot but consider it as a national honour; and I am sure that millions of my countrymen will read with pleasure the kind words you have spoken on this occasion.

"To receive these high rewards is a new proof that Science is not bounded by the limits of nations; but that its cultivators all over the world are one united brotherhood. Geography is the most universal of human inquiries. They cannot make war, they cannot make peace without Geographers. They cannot build a railway or lay out a ship's track without maps or surveys, or have trade and commerce without geography; our explorers must find out the gold-fields of the world; and not even a holiday-tour to Switzerland, or elsewhere, can be fully enjoyed without a good map. In fact, Geography is a great pioneer of culture and progress; and, moreover, the privations, hardships, and trials our travellers and explorers have to undergo, are an excellent school for bringing out the good qualities and forming fine characters.

"Having had the honour to be a Member of the Royal Geographical Society for a quarter of a century, I have witnessed with great gratification and admiration its rise, its present eminent position, its prospering condition, and extensive influence; and, while it is a great happiness for me to be once more among you, my hope and great wish is that the Society will advance and become more prosperous than ever."

A Gold Watch, value thirty guineas, awarded to the Pundit employed by Captain Montgomerie, for his route-survey from Manas-rowar to Lhasa in Great Thibet, was next presented to Lord Strangford on behalf of the Pundit, now in India.

In presenting the watch, the President spoke as follows:—

"MY LORD,

"I have sincere gratification in placing in your hands this handsome gold watch, which the Council have awarded to that skilful Pundit whose remarkable travels in Thibet will shortly be published in our Journal. In requesting you, at the commencement of this day's proceedings, to receive this reward on behalf of the Pundit,

your Lordship stated that Sir Henry Rawlinson was the most fitting person to perform this office, from having proposed the award in Council ; but whether preference should be given to your Lordship, to Sir Henry Rawlinson, or to Sir Andrew Scott Waugh, who was so long Director of the Great Trigonometrical Survey, I am sure you will, as a scholar and geographer, deeply versed in Asiatic subjects, willingly respond on behalf of the Pundit, and unite with us all in saying that there never was a gift more worthily obtained. I need not recapitulate all that the Pundit has done. He has laid down, in travelling from Nepaul to Lhasa, and along the great Thibetan road to Lake Manasarowar, a route-survey of 1200 miles of country previously scientifically unexplored, and has taken, besides, a measurement of the city of Lhasa. The details of his journey have been communicated to the Society, in the admirable report of Captain Montgomerie, to whom I beg you will convey our feelings of warm approbation of the skill and energy with which he is instructing these native explorers, and fitting them for important geographical discoveries."

Lord STRANGFORD replied :—

"MR. PRESIDENT,—You take me a little by surprise in naming me as the deputy of the remarkable Pundit who is to receive this award of the Royal Geographical Society. The rightful sponsor of the Pundit is our still more learned Pundit Sir Henry Rawlinson, on whose suggestion the award was made. But as you have done me the honour to choose me to speak vicariously, I need only say that I acknowledge with gratitude on his behalf the very high honour which you have done him. And in this I see a recognition not only of his services, but also, through him, of the common brotherhood and common intellectual capacity of natives of India with ourselves to share in our scientific honours. I am certain that the award will be duly appreciated at the present time, when the native public of India is being thoroughly educated to express its own wants and its own sentiments through the public press. It will resound through the length and the breadth of the land to the honour of the Society. I cannot leave the subject without speaking in my own person in appreciation of the Pundit's merits, as shown in his great geographical achievement. It is not only that he, a native of the plains, has emulated the Alpine Club, by climbing to a height of 15,000 feet, and showing wonderful endurance of Alpine hardships in journeying for two or three months along a plateau at this height, but also that he has shown extraordinary tact, a wonderful power of conciliation and knowledge of human nature, in overcoming so many political difficulties when accomplishing this really remarkable task. Captain Montgomerie conveys an adequate idea of the man and his work, by saying

how much he wishes the President and the Society could get a sight of this man, who has the power of making friends with every one he sees. He had shown himself a conscientious Geographer in taking such continual observations, which had been tested and verified by Captain Montgomerie himself, and in short he had proved himself in every way worthy of Captain Montgomerie's selection."

Mr. Le Neve Foster, Secretary of the Society of Arts, then presented to the President Mr. William John Wilson, as the successful Candidate of the present year for the Royal Geographical Society's Prize of Five Pounds, in the Examinations conducted by the Society of Arts. In delivering the amount to Mr. Wilson, the President congratulated him on having being the first recipient of the Prize who had been publicly rewarded and honoured at the Anniversary Meeting of the Society.

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